as soon as may be after the commencement of each year, a report of the entire accounts of the Council for the previous year. It is expected that once the staff and infrastructural support for the Chief Auditor is finalised, yearly audit of receipt and expenditure will be done as per schedule. A proposal to provide necessary support is under consideration of the Council. There is no provision in the said Act for placing a copy of the audit report before Parliament.

(d) According to the information received from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, the accounts relating to non-plan expenditure of the General Wing of the Corporation have been audited upto 1994-95. The accounts for the year 1995-96 are under audit.

Special Courts for SC/ST

*71. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up special courts for providing speedy justice in cases of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which such courts are likely to be set up in each State/Union Territory; and

(d) the total Central assistance proposed to be given by the Union Government to assist the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in setting up special courts for the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c). The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 already requires the State Governments to specify for each district a Court of Sessions as a Special Court to try offences under the Act. However, a proposal to amend the Act so as to provide, inter alia, for mandatory establishment of exclusive Special Courts in each district, subject to exemption or clubbing of districts with the concurrence of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, is also undergoing consultation with the State Governments and others concerned.

(d) Under an existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme, financial assistance is provided to the State Governments on a 50:50 basis (100% to the UT Administrations) for the measures undertaken by them for the implementation of the Act. As such, the State Governments and UT Administrations would be eligible for matching Central Assistance for the expenditure incurred by them on setting up Special Courts, the quantum of which would take into consideration the annual proposals made by them in this regard.

Development of Rainfed Areas

*72. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the specific measures taken and resources extended for the development of rainfed tracts which constitute 70 percent of the total crop area;

(b) whether effective use of irrigation facilities both existing and potential, has been augmented and tapped for the greater yield; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) A number of steps have been taken to develop rainfed tracts in the country. These include implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and externally aided projects. A list of Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented during Eighth Five Year Plan along with funds released during the last 4 years is given in Statement-I attached.

A list of externally aided projects along with the amount spent so far in respect of each project is given in Statement-II attached.

(b) and (c). The schemes implemented for augmentation of irrigation facilities have helped in augmenting the utilisation of irrigation potential in the country from 22.60 million ha. in 1950-51 to 76.7 million ha. in 1993-94. This has consequently resulted in increase in agricultural production in the country. The increased irrigation potential along with other measures has helped in increasing foodgrain production from 171.04 million tonnes in 1989-90 to 192.00 million tonnes in 1995-96.

STATEMENT - I

Amount Released for Development of Rainfed Farming under Centrally Sponsored Schemes

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Releases during the last 4 years of 8th Plan (1992-93 to 1995-96)
1	2	3
1.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)	733.33
2.	Watershed Development Project for Control of Shifting Cultivation Areas in North-Eastern India.	26.02